

31 January 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR THE UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

SUBJECT: NIS Program Interim Report

REFERENCE: a. USIB-D-51.1/8, 28 August 1963
b. USIB-AM-63/38, 29 August 1963

1. In accordance with the references the NIS Committee reports to USIB on progress made, problems encountered, and major shifts in emphasis in reorienting the NIS Program.

2. The one-volume General Survey, as the primary unit of NIS coverage for each area and for some areas the entire coverage, will represent 38% of the NIS units scheduled for FY64 compared with 24% for similar coverage in FY63. There will be marked further increase in FY65 when the schedule developed and approved by the NIS Committee allocates 55% of the total production units to 30 General Surveys. An annual rate of 30 General Surveys will permit maintenance of this primary coverage on a cycle of 2-4 years worldwide.

3. Increased emphasis on the General Survey has been accompanied by a significant decrease in the planned production of topical units supplementing the General Survey. The attachment shows phased suspension of scientific, map and chart appraisal, and key personalities elements and reflects increasing selectivity in scheduling. Within the limits of the levels of effort made available for NIS production, highly selective production of supplementary units will permit more frequent revision of units determined to be specifically required for each area covered. An estimated total of 35,000 NIS manuscript pages will be printed in FY65, compared with 44,000 for FY64 and 52,000 for FY63.

4. In consonance with the reorientation of the Program specific measures have been developed to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of MIS procedures. MIS participating agencies are cooperating in all phases of the coordination and review process in an effort to compress the time lag between manuscript production and final production. MIS format and outline guides are being critically examined in terms of appropriate detail, compatibility, economy of production resources, and responsiveness to user requirements. To inform the user regarding changes under way a revised MIS Reference Guide has been published and will be given broader distribution than formerly.

4. In consonance with the reorientation of the Program specific measures have been developed to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of NIS procedures. NIS participating agencies are cooperating in all phases of the coordination and review process in an effort to compress the time lag between manuscript production and final production. NIS format and outline guides are being critically examined in terms of appropriate detail, adaptability, economy of production resources, and responsiveness to user requirements. To inform the user regarding changes under way a revised NIS Reference Guide has been published and will be given broader distribution than formerly.

5. Problems encountered during the current fiscal year reflect the major redirection of NIS production effort. Personnel shifts have contributed to some unevenness in the flow of NIS material and in producer review techniques. Continuing quality and schedule-adherence problems to a large extent reflect the higher priorities assigned other types of production in the contributing agencies. Measures specifically directed to these problems have been initiated, however, and the redirected program will, with the programmed level of effort by the participating agencies, provide sharply accelerated NIS coverage responsive to the demand for this coordinated and at-hand basic intelligence.

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Chairman, NIS Committee

Attachment

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